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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/743,625	12/22/2003	Arthur M. Krieg	C1039,70073US00	9416

7590 08/03/2010
Helen C. Lockhart, Ph.D.
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02210

EXAMINER

MINNIFIELD, NITA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1645

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/03/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/743,625

Applicant(s)

KRIEG ET AL.

Examiner

N. M. Minnifield

Art Unit

1645

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 May 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/GS-08)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/26/10

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicants' amendment filed May 20, 2010 is acknowledged and has been entered. Claims 1-18 have been canceled. Claim 19 has been amended. Claims 19-39 are now pending in the present application. All rejections have been withdrawn in view of Applicants' comments with the exception of those discussed below.
2. The Office acknowledges Applicants' priority claim October 30, 1996.
3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

4. Claims 19-39 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 42-47, 49-53, 56, 57, 82-85, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102 and 103 of copending Application No. 09/337584. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both applications recite claims directed to a method for treating asthma in a subject, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount for treating asthma in the subject of an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

5. Claims 19-39 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 22, 23, 31, 32 and 34-37 of copending Application No. 10/769282, now allowed. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both applications recite claims directed to a method comprising administering to the subject an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide. Although 10/769282 does not recite treatment for asthma, this would be the result since the methods steps are the same. Application 10/769282 recites a method of modulating an immune response, the administration of the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide modulates a Th1 immune response, which is the immune response modulated in an asthmatic subject that has received the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

6. Claims 19-39 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 19-29 and 31-33 of copending Application No. 10/894862. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both applications recite claims directed to a method comprising administering to the subject an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide. Although 10/894862 does not recite treatment for asthma, this would be the result since the

methods steps are the same. Application 10/894862 recites a method of inducing a Th1 immune response and suppressing a Th2 immune response, the administration of the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide modulates a Th1 immune response, which is the immune response modulated in an asthmatic subject that has received the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide; the Th2 immune response is suppressed.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

7. The provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejections over 09/337584, 10/769282 and 10/894862 are maintained. Applicants' arguments filed May 20, 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants have asserted that the rejections are provisional on because no claims in the 09/337584, 10/769282 and 10/894862 applications have been found allowable. If any of the cited claims are found allowable, Applicants will address the rejection.

With regard to 09/337584, Applicants have indicated that although 09/337584 has been returned from the Board, a notice of allowance has not been issued. And that if allowable subject matter is identified Applicant will address the merits of the rejection over the allowable subject matter.

It is noted that *Application 09/337584* has been allowed as of 08/2/10.

With regard to *Application 10/769282* it is noted that this application was allowed September 4, 2009. *This application is now an issued patent, issued March 9, 2010, with the US Patent No. 7,674,777.* A terminal disclaimer or amendment to the claims is required.

With regard to *Application 10/894862*, it is noted that this application has been allowed. A Notice of Allowance was mailed to Applicants on July 13, 2010. This rejection will be maintained until a properly filed terminal disclaimer is received or Applicants have addressed the merits of the rejection.

8. No claims are allowed.

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to N. M. Minnifield whose telephone number is 571-272-0860. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert B. Mondesi can be reached on 571-272-0956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

N. M. Minnifield
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1645

/N. M. Minnifield/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1645